

ROUTING

Top Secret

217

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Tuesday March 8, 1977

CG NIDC 77-054C

State Dept. review completed



NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Monday, March 8, 1977.

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The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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YUGOSLAVIA: Possible Amnesty

25X1 [] Yugoslavia will grant amnesty to many of its political prisoners within two months, according to Aleksandar Grlickov, the Yugoslav party's secretary for international relations.

25X1 [] Grlickov said that the move is part of a general reform of outdated laws governing political offenses, but it appears more related to Yugoslavia's desire to improve its image before the preparatory conference on European security matters meets in Belgrade in June. The amnesty probably will not be accompanied by any significant internal liberalization.

25X1 [] A leading dissident, Milovan Djilas, recently estimated that Yugoslavia has about 600 political prisoners. These include pro-Soviet "cominformists," various nationalists, and anti-Titoist agitators. Grlickov also said the regime will free Mihajlo Mihajlov, the writer whose recent hunger strikes have attracted widespread Western publicity.

25X1 [] The US embassy says that Edvard Kardelj, the regime's leading theoretician, may soon allude to the amnesty in a major speech that reportedly will address the need for "democratization" of Yugoslav legal sanctions for political crimes. The announcement of the amnesty could occur around Tito's 85th birthday on May 25. []

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